

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 096289

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN OPIUM POLICY

1. INCREASING CONCERN IS BEING REGISTERED BY PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS WITH REGARD AVAILABILITY OF LICIT OPIUM. DEMAND FROM US AND OTHER COUNTRIES IS CONSISTENTLY INCREASING. CHANGES IN PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBING HABITS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE LIKELY SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS.

2. MALLINCKRODT PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES PREDICT UNITED STATES SHORTAGE AS SOON AS LATE 1973. CRITICAL SHORTAGE IN 1974 PROJECTED. THIS IS BASED ON ANTICIPATED CONTINUED INCREASE IN DEMAND COUPLED WITH AGREED UPON GOI ALLOCATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS FOR 1973 AND  
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ASSUMPTION BY MALLINCKRODT THAT 1974 INDIAN PLANTINGS ( AND U. S. ALLOCATION) WILL EQUAL TO 1972 LEVEL.

3. THIS MATTER RECEIVING URGENT INTER- AGENCY CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST MISSION' S EVALUATION OF INDIAN INTENTIONS AND POLICIES WITH REGARD TO OPIUM PRODUCTION, WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT APPROACHING GOI AT THIS TIME. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED:

A) WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATE OF 1972-73 CROP YEAR PRODUCTION? -

B) WHAT ARE INDIAN PRODUCTION PLANS FOR NEXT CROP YEAR? ARE THESE PLANS FIRM?

C) WHAT ARE TENTATIVE PRODUCTION PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS?

D) DOES INDIA FEEL CONSTRAINED FROM INCREASING PRODUCTION AS A RESULT OF USG STATED LONG TERM POLICY OF WORLDWIDE OPIUM ERADICATION?

E) WHAT IS EXTENT OF PRESSURE, IF ANY, BY OTHER NATIONS ON INDIA TO EXPAND PRODUCTION?

F) IF WORLDWIDE MARKET FORCES LEAD INDIA TO EXPAND PRODUCTION, WILL CURRENT CONTROLS BE ADEQUATE? OUR ESTIMATE OF SITUATION SUGGESTS DIFFICULTIES IN THIS REGARD PARTICULARLY AS TURKISH PIPELINE CONTINUES TO DRY UP. IF CURRENT OR PROJECTED CONTROLS ARE SERIOUS PROBLEM, WHAT KINDS OF UNILATERAL, BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES MIGHT BE DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH LEAKAGE?

4. FYI - PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY INCB IN RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON INFORMED DEPARTMENT THEY ARE PROPOSING TO VISIT INDIA THIS YEAR TO REVIEW WITH GOI PRESENT AND PROJECTED OPIUM PRODUCTION AND INSPECTION SYSTEM.

5. RESPONSE REQUESTED NLT MID- JUNE. VISIT BY CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STAFF MEMBER TENTATIVELY PLANNED AT ABOUT THAT TIME. WILL KEEP YOU SECRET

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INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF OUR DELIBERATIONS. RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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